BACKGROUNDER NO. 5-5601 MARCH 10, 1978
CHRIS KERN

THIS WEEK NO. 10

ANNCR:

"THIS WEEK."

FROM THE VOICE OF AMERICA, THE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK GONE BY; A LOOK AT SOME OF THE EVENTS, A CROSS-SECTION OF THE IDEAS, AND THE VOICES OF SOME OF THE PEOPLE WHO MADE NEWS DURING TH PAST SEVEN DAYS. YOUR NARRATOR IS ----------.

NARR:

THE NEW AGREEMENT BETWEEN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH AND HIS BLACK OPPOSITION WITHIN RHODESIA DREW INCREASING CRITICISM ALL WEEK LONG FROM THE BLACK GUERRILLA GROUPS OUTSIDE RHODESIA THAT HAVE BEEN TRYING TO BRING MR. SMITH'S WHITE-RULE GOVERNMENT DOWN. THE BLACK PATRIOTIC FRONT ASKED THE UNITED NATIONS TO CONDEMN THE PLAN, WHICH CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE BLACK PARTICIPATION IN THE GOVERNMENT BUT LEAVES CONTROL OF MANY GOVERNMENTAL INSTITUTIONS IN WHITE HANDS FOR AT LEAST TEN YEARS. THE GROUP'S LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMO, CALLED THE AGREEMENT A "SELLOUT" AND A "FAKE."

TAPE: CUT ONE -- NKOMO

"IT'S AN AGREEMENT FOR WHAT? A HUNDRED-MEMBER CHAMBER, 72 AFRICANS, 28 EUROPEANS. AFRICANS ELECTED BY AFRICANS, EUROPEANS BY EUROPEANS. NOW, IT ENTRENCHES APARTHEID. . . . THE ARMY MUST REMAIN AS IT IS, WHICH IS WHITE-LED AND WHITE-CONTROLLED. THE POLICE, WHITE-LED AND WHITE-CONTROLLED. THE JUDICIARY, A HUNDRED PERCENT WHITE. THE CIVIL SERVICE, ALMOST 99.9 PERCENT WHITE. AND THESE ARE ENTRENCHED."

NARR:

BUT THE BLACK LEADERS WHO PARTICIPATED IN THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT LOBBIED HARD FOR INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT IT CREATES. BISHOP ABEL MUZOREWA, WHO WILL BECOME A MINISTER OF THE NEW GOVERNMENT, MET WITH U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE HERE IN WASHINGTON AND SAID HE CAME AWAY ENCOURAGED. BISHOP MUZOREWA ARGUED THAT THE SETTLEMENT IS BASED ON THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSAL FOR BLACK MAJORITY RULE.

TAPE: CUT TWO -- MUZOREWA

"ALL I KNOW IS THAT WHAT WE HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR FOR OVER 80 YEARS -- 87 YEARS NOW -- HAS HAPPENED: THAT MR. SMITH FOR THE FIRST TIME HAS CONCEDED TO MAJORITY RULE, NOT ONLY IN PRINCIPLE, BUT IN PRACTICE, IN THAT HE HAS ACTUALLY SIGNED (AN AGREEMENT) THAT, ON THE BASIS OF ONE PERSON, ONE VOTE, BY THE END OF THIS YEAR, THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE WILL RULE THEMSELVES."

NARR:

WHILE THE VARIOUS BLACK LEADERS WERE ENGAGED IN DIPLOMATIC ACTIVITY HERE IN THE UNITED STATES, THE RHODESIAN ARMY WAS ENGAGING IN MILITARY ACTIVITY IN NEIGHBORING ZAMBIA. RHODESIAN TROOPS CROSSED THE BORDER IN A NIGHTTIME RAID AGAINST ONE OF THE GUERRILLA BASES CONTROLLED BY MR. NKOMO'S PATRIOTIC FRONT, KILLING AT LEAST 38 GUERRILLAS.

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NARR:

THERE WERE SIGNS THIS WEEK OF GROWING DIVISIONS WITHIN ISRAEL OVER PRIME MINISTER MENACHEM BEGIN'S APPROACH TO THE STALLED NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT. ONE OF THE MAIN OUTSTANDING ISSUES IS THE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S POLICY OF BUILDING CIVILIAN SETTLEMENTS ON THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK OF THE JORDAN RIVER. BUT JUST A FEW DAYS BEFORE MR. BEGIN WAS SCHEDULED TO LEAVE ISRAEL FOR A TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES, HIS DEFENSE MINISTER, EZER WEIZMAN, APPARENTLY THREATENED TO RESIGN IF WORK ON A PLANNED NEW SETTLEMENT WAS STARTED. MR. WEIZMAN -- WHO HAD ALREADY ARRIVED IN THIS COUNTRY IN ADVANCE OF MR. BEGIN -- INDICATED TO REPORTERS THAT HE PREVAILED, AND THAT WORK ON THE SETTLEMENT HAS BEEN BLOCKED.

TAPE: CUT THREE -- WEIZMAN

"LET'S NOT COMPLICATE IT. THERE'S A STANDSTILL UNTIL THE PRIME MINISTER COMES BACK FROM THE TALKS HERE. WE DID HAVE A TALK ABOUT THE WAY I LOOK AT THINGS AND THE WAY HE LOOKS AT THINGS. WE BOTH LOOK AT THE THINGS THE SAME NOW."

NARR:

MR. BEGIN'S SETTLEMENTS POLICY IS BASED ON HIS INTERPRETATION OF UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION 242, WHICH CALLS FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWA FROM OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES BUT WHICH DOESN'T SPECIFY WHICH TERRITORIES OR WHETHER ALL OF THEM ARE INCLUDED. MR. BEGIN ARGUES THAT RESOLUTION 242 DOESN'T NECESSARILY EXCLUDE CONTINUED ISRAELI DOMINION OVER THE WEST BANK -- A VIEW, BY THE WAY, THAT THE UNITED STATES, AMONG OTHER COUNTRIES, REJECTS. THIS WEEK, MR. BEGIN'S INTERPRETATION WAS CHALLENGED BY A NUMBER OF OPPOSITION ISRAELI LABOR PARTY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE PARTY'S LEADER, SHIMON PERES.

TAPE: CUT FOUR -- PERES

"THE PARTY THAT I REPRESENT IS SURELY FOR A TERRITORIAL COMPROMISE AND, VERY MUCH BECAUSE OF THAT REASON, WE ADMIT THAT THE LANGUAGE OF (U.N. RESOLUTION) 242 AS IT WAS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN COVERS THE WEST BANK AS WELL."

NARR:

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THE WHOLE WEST BANK QUESTION IS SURE TO COME UP IN THE TALKS BETWEEN MR. BEGIN AND PRESIDENT CARTER AND, APPARENTLY ANTICIPATING THOSE MEETINGS, EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT ANWAR SADAT TOLD THE NEW YORK TIMES THIS WEEK THAT "THE TIME HAS COME" FOR MR. CARTER TO ANNOUNCE HIS TERMS FOR BREAKING THE MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMATIC STALEMATE.

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NARR:

YUGOSLAVIA'S AGING PRESIDENT JOSIP TITO VISITED THE UNITED STATES THIS WEEK FOR TALKS WITH PRESIDENT CARTER ON YUGOSLAV-AMERICAN ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND A RANGE OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES. MARSHALL TITO IS ALMOST 86 -- THOUGH HE LOOKS AT LEAST 20 YEARS YOUNGER -- AND THERE HAS BEEN INEVITABLE SPECULATION, IN THIS COUNTRY AND ELSEWHERE, ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS TO YUGOSLAVIA WHEN HE DIES. HIS MIDDLE COURSE

BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION HAS MADE HIM THE UNDISPUTED SYMBOL OF NONALIGNMENT, AND IN POINTED WELCOMING CEREMONY REMARKS, PRESIDENT CARTER MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES EXPECTS YUGOSLAV INDEPENDENCE TO SURVIVE HIM.

TAPE: CUT FIVE --CARTER

"HE'S A MAN WHO HAS UNDERSTOOD FOR A LONG TIME OUR OWN NATION'S COMMITMENT TO DETENTE AND THE TRUE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS MISUNDERSTOOD WORD. HE REALIZES, AND HAS TOLD ME IN OUR FREQUENT PERSONAL COMMUNICATIONS, THAT HE UNDERSTANDS THAT DETENTE MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE, THAT IT MUST BE RECIPROCAL IN NATURE, AND IT MUST BE A DEMONSTRATION CONSTANTLY BY THE SUPERPOWERS OF MUTUAL RESTRAINT AND A CONSTANT SEARCH FOR PEACE . . . PERHAPS AS MUCH AS ANY OTHER PERSON, HE EXEMPLIFIES, IN YUGOSLAVIA, THE EAGERNESS FOR FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND LIBERTY THAT EXISTS THROUGHOUT EASTERN EUROPE AND, INDEED, THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. HE AND THE PEOPLE OF YUGOSLAVIA ARE RECOGNIZED BY OUR OWN COUNTRY AS WORTHY OF ADMIRATION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE INDEPENDENCE AND THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF YUGOSLAVIA IS (SIC) ONE OF THE BASIC FOUNDATIONS OF WORLD PEACE, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE."

NARR:

AMERICAN OFFICIALS CHARACTERIZED THE CARTER-TITO TALKS AS "VERY WARM," AND SAID THAT WHILE THERE ARE SOME DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND YUGOSLAVIA OVER THE DETAILS OF CERTAIN MAJOR ISSUES, THE THRUST OF POLITICAL THINKING ON BOTH SIDES IS SIMILAR.

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NARR:

AFTER FIVE MONTHS OF OFTEN BITTER DEBATE, THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE ON EUROPEAN SECURITY AND COOPERATION ADJOURNED THIS WEEK AFTER ADOPTING A FINAL DOCUMENT THAT SIMPLY IGNORES THE CONFERENCE'S MAIN ISSUE, HUMAN RIGHTS. THE UNITED STATES, CANADA, THE VATICAN AND THE 32 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE AGREED TO MEET AGAIN IN MADRID IN NOVEMBER, 1980, FOR STILL ANOTHER REVIEW OF THE AGREEMENTS ON EUROPEAN SECURITY THAT WERE SIGNED THREE YEARS AGO. THE OMISSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE IN THE BELGRADE FINAL DOCUMENT WAS

THE RESULT OF A VETO BY THE SOVIET UNION OF ANY FORMAL COMMENT ON AN ISSUE THAT MOSCOW CONSIDERS AN INTRUSION IN ITS INTERNAL AFFAIRS. BUT THE SOVIET RECORD ON THE RIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS AND ETHNIC MINORITIES -- AND ITS PERSECUTION OF POLITICAL DISSENTERS -- WAS THE SUBJECT OF REPEATED IF OBLIQUE REFERENCES BY AMERICAN DELEGATE ARTHUR GOLDBERG IN HIS FINAL CONFERENCE SPEECH. "EFFORTS TO SQUELCH THE TRUTH AT BELGRADE," MR. GOLDBERG SAID, "WILL NOT CHANGE THE TRUTH."

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NARR:

PRESIDENT CARTER FINALLY ACTED THIS WEEK TO END -- AT LEAST TEMPORARILY -- THE THREE-MONTH NATIONWIDE COAL STRIKE THAT HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE HERE IN THE UNITED STATES. MR. CARTER INVOKED A LAW THAT PROVIDES FOR A COURT ORDER TO SUSPEND ANY STRIKE THAT THREATENS PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY. BUT IT WAS OPEN QUESTION WHETHER THE INDEPENDENT-MINDED COAL MINERS -- WHO HAVE ALREADY REJECTED THE NEW LABOR CONTRACT NEGOTIATED BY THEIR UNION LEADERS--WOULD OBEY THE COURT'S ORDER TO RETURN TO WORK

IN HIS TELEVISION ANNOUNCEMENT, MR. CARTER HINTED BROADLY THAT HE WOULD TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO FORCE THE MINERS TO RETURN TO WORK.

TAPE: CUT SIX -- CARTER

"THE COAL STRIKE IS THREE MONTHS OLD. THE COUNTRY CANNOT AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER. COAL SUPPLIES HAVE BEEN REDUCED TO A CRITICAL LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE MIDWEST. TENS OF THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE ARE ALREADY OUT OF WORK BECAUSE FACTORIES HAVE LAID OFF WORKERS TO CONSERVE FUEL . . . . I EXPECT THAT ALL PARTIES AFFECTED BY THESE ACTIONS WILL COOPERATE FULLY AND ABIDE COMPLETELY BY THE LAW . . . . THE LABOR LAWS OF OUR COUNTRY, OF THE UNITED STATES, HAVE BEEN WRITTEN TO PROTECT OUR NATION AND AT THE SAME TIME TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF WORKERS. IN TIMES OF CRISIS, THE LAW BINDS US TOGETHER. IT ALLOWS US TO MAKE DECISIONS OPENLY AND PEACEFULLY, AND IT GIVES US -- TO THE COURTS AND LEGAL PROCEDURES -- MEANS TO RESOLVE DISPUTES FAIRLY. RESPECT FOR THE RULE OF LAW ENSURES THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATION. THE LAW WILL BE ENFORCED."

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NARR:

EVEN IF THE MINERS DO OBEY THE BACK-TO-WORK INJUNCTION, THE LAW PERMITS THEM TO RESUME THEIR STRIKE IF A COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE COAL INDUSTRY IS NOT REACHED IN 80 DAYS.

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ANNCR:

AND THOSE ARE SOME OF THE STORIES THAT MADE HEADLINES THIS WEEK. YOUR NARRATOR WAS ----------. JOIN US AGAIN NEXT ----------, WHEN THE VOICE OF AMERICA TAKES A LOOK AT THE NEXT SEVEN DAYS OF THE WEEK.

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JS/RTD/PY